12/10/00

Dear RAB Members:

Enclosed please find a copy of the minutes of the November 15 , 2000, RAB meeting. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at (401)841-7714.

Very truly yours,

Michele Imbriglio

Michele Imbriglio
RAB Secretary

Copy to: (w/enc)
Dr. D.K. Abbass
Dr. Richard Ayen
Ms. Barbara Barrow, Esq.
Mr. John R. Bernardo, III, Esq.
Ms. Mary A. Blake
Dr. David W. Brown
Mr. Richard D. Coogan
Mr. Paul A. Cormier
Mr. Thurston Gray
Mr. Byron Hall
Ms. Susan Hester
Mr. Eugene Love
Ms. Elizabeth Mathinos
Mr. Manuel Marques
Mr. Thomas McGrath
Mr. James E. Myers
Mr. Howard L. Porter
Mr. Emmet E. Turley
Mr. John Vitkevich
Ms. Claudette Weissinger
Ms. Mary Philcox
Mr. David Egan
Mr. Paul Kulpa, RIDEM
Ms. Kymberlee Keckler, EPA
CAPT R. A. Cooper, NAVSTA
CAPT H. L. Schwind, NAVSTA

CDR R. L. Freitag, NAVSTA
CAPT Jon Wyman, Retired
Hon. Paul W. Crowley
Hon. June Gibbs
Mr. Joseph McEnness
Mr. Paul Russell
Mr. John Torgan
Mr. Jim Shafer
ATSDR
Mr. Gregg Tracey, SAIC
Councilman Dennis McCoy
Dr. David Kim
Mr. Brian Bishop
Brother Joseph
Newport Public Library
Middletown Free Library
Portsmouth Free Public Library
Mr. Bob Jones, Groton
Mr. David Sanders, NAVSTA
Mr. David Dorocz, NAVSTA
Ms. Melissa Griffin, NAVSTA
Ms. Shannon Behr, NAVSTA
Mr. Rick Machado, NUWC
Ms. Sarah White, EPA
Ms. Jennifer Stump, Gannett Fleming
Mr. Tim Prior, USF&WS
Mr. Ken Finkelstein, NOAA
Ms. Diane Baxter, TtNUS, Wilmington
Mr. Matt Weaver, Green Light Foundation
Dr. Robert Quigley
Mr. Robert Gilstein
Ms. Amrita Roy
Ms. Virginia Lee
Ms. Arlene Kalewski
Ms. Kelly Woodward

**NAVAL STATION NEWPORT**
**RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**
**November 15, 2000**

**MINUTES**

On Wednesday, November 15; 2000, the NAVSTA Newport Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) gathered at the Officers' Club for its monthly meeting. The meeting began at 7:00pm and ended at 9:00pm.

In attendance were Claudette Weissinger, Richard Coogan, Emmet Turley, James Myers, Thurston Gray, Howard Porter, Susan Hester, Eugene Love, Byron Hall, Dave Egan, Bob Gilstein Portsmouth Town Planner, John Vitkevich, Capt. Herb Schwind NAVSTA, Capt. Ruth Cooper NAVSTA, CDR Lee Freitag, Jr. NAVSTA, Melissa Griffin NAVSTA, Shannon Behr NAVSTA, Dave Dorocz NAVSTA, Greg Kohlweiss NAVSTA PAO, Paul Kulpa RIDEM, Kymberlee Keckler USEPA

Captain Schwind opened the meeting and welcomed the group.

**MEETING MINUTES**

September meeting minutes were approved. There are no meeting minutes for October as the meeting was cancelled. However, some members did meet in October as they planned to discuss the RAB information campaign. A member of the Public Affairs Office attended, however, the group did not discuss the above as planned. The group instead discussed their concerns with the McAllister Point Dredging Project. RAB members have many questions about the project they feel have not been addressed. A list of questions will be compiled and provided to the Navy for clarification.

Howard Porter has many concerns about disposal routes, type of trucks, staging areas, etc.. Jim Shafer advised of a meeting on November 29, 2000 to discuss the 85% Remedial Design Workplan. Howard was invited to attend along with any other concerned RAB members. Jim Shafer advised that the meeting would be held at the Harbor Island Conference Center. The meeting is scheduled to begin around 9:00 am but Jim will be there at 8:00 am. Howard Porter plans on attending, however he feels that what he is told is different than what actually takes place on many of the clean-up projects. Captain Cooper advised Howard to call her directly, at home or at her office, if he feels the project is not proceeding as expected.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

Project Committee-Emmet Turley Committee Chair: No report. Emmett has information on dredge window and he will provide this once his printer is working.

Planning Committee-VACANT: No report.

Membership Committee-Howard Porter Committee Chair: No report.

Public Information-Claudette Weissinger Committee Chair: Preparing newsletter. Kymberlee Keckler will provide an article on CERCLA process.

**ACTIVITY UPDATE-James Shafer**

James Shafer gave a brief status report on various IR sites as follows;

Old Firefighting Training Area-Offshore: A final Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) report was submitted April 28, 2000. See Enclosure (1)

Old Firefighting Training Area-Onshore: Final background soil investigation report in August. Draft final remedial investigation report (RI) planned for October 25, 2000. Comments due December 9, 2000. Feasibility study planned for Winter 2001. See Enclosure (1)

McAllister Point Landfill-Offshore: A Record of Decision (ROD) was signed by the USEPA on 3/1/00. Deadlines for Remedial Design documents is as follows; 35% Remedial Design Workplan-1 May 00; 60% Remedial Design Workplan-20 July 00; 85% Remedial Design Workplan-4 Jan 01; Project Closeout Report-30 Aug 02. See Enclosure (1)

McAllister Point Landfill-Onshore: Continue long term monitoring of landfill gas and groundwater. See Enclosure (1)

Tank Farm 5: Two additional bedrock wells have been installed. Data report submitted April 21, 2000. Sampling results comply with GA ground water standards. No further investigation recommended. Received response from RIDEM October 16, 2000. RIDEM requires one additional sampling of all wells. See Enclosure (1).

Derecktor Shipyard-Onshore: Submitted removal action report in September 29, 2000. Comments are due November 16, 2000. See Enclosure (1).

Derecktor Shipyard-Offshore: Funding for remediation planned for FY05/06. See Enclosure (1).

Melville North Landfill: Remediation complete. Submitted closure report in September 2000. See Enclosure (1).

Gould Island: Installation Restoration Field Work began in April 2000. Submitted draft SASE report August 2000 recommending proceed to RI/FS. Submit RI work plan January 2003. See Enclosure (1).

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, NAVY FUNDED PROJECT UPDATE-Shannon Behr**

Tank Farm 1-Cleaning of Tanks 9 & 10 was completed on September 22, 2000 These tanks will not be closed until all tanks at all tank farms have been closed as these particular tanks serve as oil/water separators for the farms. See Enclosure 2.

Tank Farm 3-Tanks 69 and 70 have been cleaned, certified gas-free by a marine chemist and inspected by RIDEM (9 Nov 00). Cleaning is underway at tanks 32, 33, 34 and 35. Once cleaning operations are complete they will be certified gas-free by a marine chemist and inspected by RIDEM. The Defense Logistics Agency hopes to have the work at Tank Farm 3 completed by December 1, 2000. See Enclosure 2.

Tank Farm 4 -The Final Supplemental Site Investigation (SSI) report for Tanks 42, 45 and 48 was submitted to RIDEM on November 5, 2000. Navy is awaiting comments from RIDEM. See Enclosure 2.

Tank Farm 5 -Final Bedrock Groundwater Investigation Report for Former Tanks 53 and 56 in Tank Farm 5 submitted to RIDEM on July 7, 2000. Final Round 6 Corrective Action Groundwater Monitoring Report for Tanks 51, 52, 54 and 57 submitted to RIDEM July 17, 2000. Navy still awaiting comments from RIDEM. See Enclosure 2.

Former Building 70 Midway- Received comments from RIDEM on Draft Work Plan for Former Building 70 Site Investigation on September 12, 2000. Navy has prepared a response to those comments. Response is currently undergoing internal Navy review and will be mailed to RIDEM when complete. See Enclosure 2.

Midway Fuel Pier-Final report for Closure of Midway Fuel Pier completed and submitted to RIDEM August 23, 2000.

Building 44 Gould Island-Project close out report completed and submitted to RIDEM on October 23, 2000. Currently developing a work plan to monitor groundwater at the site for the next 18 months as the final step to fulfill the Corrective Action Plan (January 1999). See Enclosure 2.

Defense Highway Fuel Line Closure-Pipeline cleaning has been completed and all chambers have been demolished. The Navy is currently working to obtain funding to locate outfalls of drains found in some of the valve chambers as per the request of RIDEM. RIDEM wants to be sure the chambers do not drain to any Underground Injection Controls (UIC). Closure report due December 11, 2000. See Enclosure 2.

**McALLISTER POINT HABITAT SURVEY AND MITIGATION PLAN-Greg Tracey-SAIC**

The habitat survey objectives were to address what impact the dredging activities would have on the aquatic environment that is contained inside the dredging zone as well as what impacts any secondary activity would have relative to the dredging operations (vessels, etc.) outside of the dredging area.

A baseline survey was completed to map out what is known about the aquatic habitat in the area. It is important to have this mapping to know exactly where each aquatic habitat is located (mussel beds, fish, lobster beds, etc.) to be able to restore the area as closely as possible to its natural state. To determine whether or not there would be any effects of dredging on the benthic habitats a baseline map is established. This mapping is used to compare to a map of the completed area.

The habitat survey mapped the area, determined the type and distribution of the benthic habitat, mapped eelgrass acreage, measured egg, larval and adult fish abundances.

Substrate mapping was completed. This will allow the proper material to be replaced at the same content, type, slope and rise of what is there now, once operations are complete. Areas at the site were mapped as well as reference areas to the north and south of the site.

Sidescan Sonar, REMOTS Planview photography, Video Transects and Hydrographic Measurements are some of the techniques used in the mapping process.

It was known that there was some sparse eelgrass in the area but the study found that the eelgrass area was larger than expected. A portion of this bed is within the dredge area. It is important to protect this eelgrass area, as it is an important habitat for animal and fish species. It can also be important for shellfish such as scallop (although not in this area). The value of the eelgrass to the McAllister Point area is primarily related to Scup, which use it for spawning purposes. It is also important to juvenile lobster that, use it for cover until they grow out to a larger size. The larger eelgrass function is that as it is vegetation it oxygenates the water. There is approximately 1 acre of eelgrass. Approximately 2/10 of an acre is within the proposed dredging area.

The Essential Fish Habitat study looked at the variety of fish the types of managed species (species that the National Marine Fisheries) track. Conclusion was that out of 6 of the 8 species in the area dredging activities have a low likelihood of having a significant impact. There was some concern about Scup and Winter Flounder but in consideration of the amount of habitat that is present in relationship to what other alternatives those fish species have, how mobile they are, it is felt that the dredging should not have a significant impact on those fish species. This is a draft recommendation. The National Marine Fisheries still need to provide their comments on this position.

The goal of the Mitigation Plan is, for areas outside of the dredge zone, for the habitat to stay as it is or be improved. For areas inside the dredge zone, we want it to come back to what should be a normal benthic community type. The approach to restoring the area inside the dredge zone for the benthic community is passive re-colonization. This means that given the appropriate environment a community will usually restore itself naturally. Eelgrass is different. Eelgrass is subject to clarity of the water, water depth and disturbance. Active restoration of the eelgrass beds will be done. This means eelgrass will be planted or the area will be seeded. It is expected this will be successful, as there is already eelgrass in the area. The plan is, before any dredging activities begin, to harvest eelgrass and store it at the Univ. of RI and replant it at another location. It cannot be replanted in this area because of the length of time necessary

for the substrate to be repaired. This area, however, will be seeded.

Plans for fish habitat will be as follows, a 30' x 30' area is created, and where rock is piled approximately 1' high. Three of the areas will be created at a water depth of 15'. Two sizes of rock are used. The smaller rocks provide areas for the small fish while the larger rocks provide areas for the larger fish. An opportunity is available to use material from the site to help nature along quicker and more cost efficiently. See Enclosure (3).

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is scheduled for Wednesday, **January 17, 2001**, at 7 p.m., at the Officers' Club. The agenda will include the Navy policy on Natural Resource Damage Assessment.

Enclosures:
(1) Activity Report
(2) ER,N Funded Project Update
(3) McAllister Point Landfill Habitat Survey Preliminary Results

# Activity Update

Naval Station Newport
Installation Restoration Program

## Old Firefighting Training Area

- Final offshore ERA submitted April 28, 2000
- Final onshore Background study in Aug 2000
- Draft Final Remedial Investigation Report for onshore and offshore submitted Oct 25, 2000
  - comments due December 9, 2000
- Feasibility study planned for Winter 2001

## McAllister Point Landfill - Offshore

- Record of Decision -USEPA signed 3/1/00
- Notice of availability of ROD
- Deadlines for Remedial Design Documents
  - 35% Remedial Design Workplan 1May 00
  - 60% Remedial Design Workplan 20 July 00
  - 85% Remedial Design Workplan 10 Oct 00
  - Comments due on 85% 24 Nov 00
  - Final Remedial Design Workplan 4 Jan 01
  - Project Closeout Report 30 Aug 02

## McAllister Point Landfill - Onshore

- Continue long term monitoring of landfill gas and groundwater

## Tank Farm 5

- Two additional bedrock wells installed at former Tanks 53 and 56
- Submitted Data Report April 21 2000
- Sampling results comply with RIDEM GA ground water standards
- Received RIDEM response October 16, 2000
- One additional sampling of all wells required

## Derecktor Shipyard

Onshore:

- Submitted removal action report Sept. 29, 2000
- Comments due November 16, 2000

Offshore:

- Funding for remediation planned for 2005/2006

## Melville North Landfill

- Remediation Complete
- Submitted Closure Report September 2000

## Gould Island

- Installation Restoration Field Work in April 2000
- Submitted Draft SASE Report August 2000 recommending proceed to RI/FS
- Submit RI Work Plan January 2003

# *Environmental Restoration, Navy (ER,N) Funded Project Update November 2000*

## *Tank Farm 1*

- *Cleaning of Tanks 9 and 10 was completed on September 22, 2000.*

ENCLOSURE (2)

## Tank Farm 3

- *Tanks 69 and 70 have been cleaned, certified gas-free by a Marine Chemist, and inspected by RIDEM (9 November 2000).*
- *Tanks 32, 33, 34, and 35 are being cleaned. Once this is complete they will be certified by a Marine Chemist and inspected by RIDEM.*
- *The Defense Logistics Agency hopes to have the work at Tank Farm 3 completed by December 1, 2000.*

## Tank Farm 4

- *Final Supplemental Site Investigation (SSI) Report for Tanks 42, 45, and 48 submitted to RIDEM on 5 November 1999.*
- *Navy still awaiting comments from RIDEM.*

## Tank Farm 5

- *Final Bedrock Groundwater Investigation Report for Former Tanks 53 and 56 in Tank Farm 5 submitted to RIDEM 7 July 2000.*
- *Final Round 6 Corrective Action Groundwater Monitoring Report for Tanks 51, 52, 54, and 57 submitted to RIDEM 17 July 2000.*
- *Navy still awaiting comments.*

## Former Building 70 Midway

- *Received comments from RIDEM on the Draft Work Plan for Former Building 70 Site Investigation on September 12, 2000.*
- *Navy has prepared response to RIDEM comments. It is undergoing internal review and will be mailed to RIDEM when complete.*

## Midway Fuel Pier

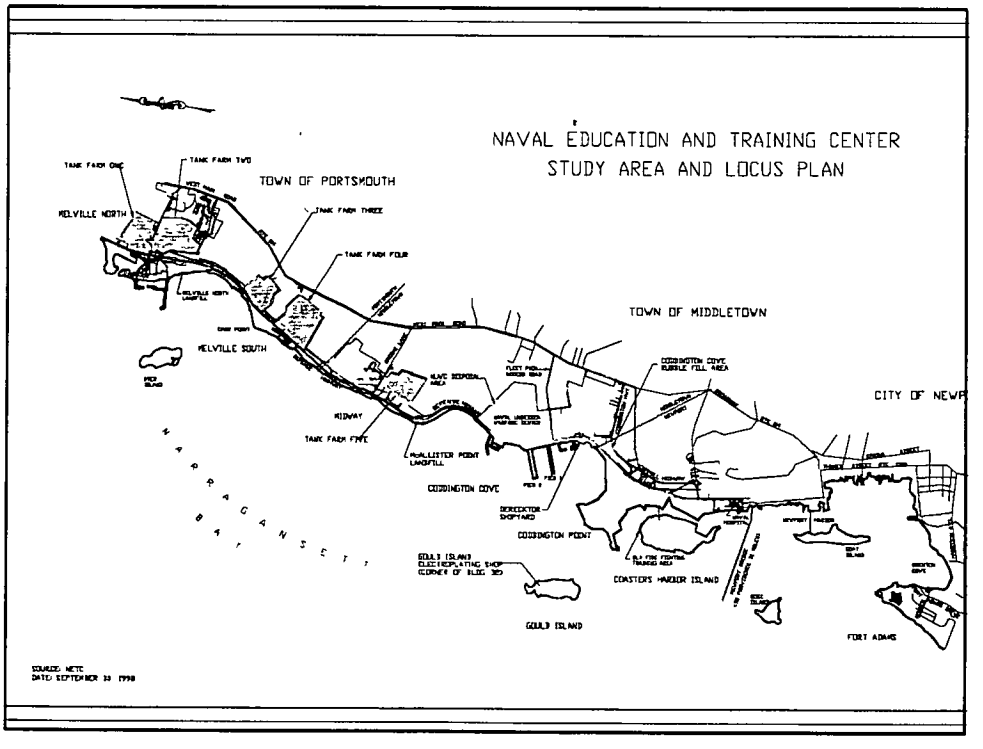
- *Final Report for Closure of Midway Fuel Pier completed and submitted to RIDEM August 23, 2000.*

## Building 44, Gould Island

- *Project Close-Out Report completed and submitted to RIDEM on October 23, 2000.*
- *Currently developing a work plan to monitor groundwater at the site for the next 18 months as the final step to fulfill the Corrective Action Plan (January 1999).*

# Defense Highway Fuel Line Closure

- *Pipeline cleaning has been completed and all chambers have been demolished.*
- *The Navy is currently working to obtain funding to locate outfalls of drains found in some of the valve chambers, as per the request of RIDEM.*
- *Closure report due December 11, 2000.*



# McAllister Point Landfill Habitat Survey Preliminary Results

**Presented by:**
**Gregory Tracey**
**SAIC**

**15 November 2000**

## Presentation Overview

- **Habitat Study Objectives**
- **Status of Habitat Survey/Results**
- **Status of Fisheries Surveys/EFH Evaluation**
- **Status of Habitat Restoration Plan**
- **Reporting/Schedule**

# Habitat Study Objectives:

***Objectives:***

- Document baseline benthic habitat conditions to assess potential negative impacts of dredging on benthic and pelagic environment;
- Assess potential impact of an extended dredging window on fisheries species.

***Approaches:***

- Conduct benthic surveys to map habitat;
- Analyze benthic and fisheries data to determine Essential Fish Habitat status and temporal utilization.

# Status of Habitat Survey

***Accomplishments:***

- Mapped distribution of substrate type;
- Mapped distribution of generalized benthic habitat types;
- Mapped acreage of eelgrass habitat and relative density;
- Measured egg, larval and adult fish abundances;
- Measured baseline ambient turbidity and wave environment.

# Habitat Survey Results

- ***Sidescan Sonar*** - Provides an acoustic representation of seafloor topography, generalized sediment texture, bottom targets, locate eelgrass beds
- ***REMOTS®/Planview photography*** - Provides sediment type, RPD depth, Infaunal Successional Stage, Habitat Classification
- ***Video Transects***- Provides lateral spatial coverage adjacent to REMOTS®/Planview stations, confirms REMOTS®/Planview and Sidescan data
- ***Hydrographic Measurements***- Measure near-bottom turbidity, salilnity/temperature and wave height.

# Status of Fisheries Surveys/EFH Evaluations

***Goal:***

- Determine whether dredging activities may adversely affect fisheries for:
  - Atlantic herring - Winter flounder
  - Windowpane flounder - Scup
  - Tautog - Lobster
  - Hard clams - Oysters

***Accomplishments:***

- Completed Habitat and Fisheries Surveys;
- Analyzing recent habitat and fish survey data for evidence of habitat utilization;
- Reviewing historical and regional fisheries data to assess degree of preferential site utilization by fisheries species.

## Habitat Restoration Plan

***Goal:***

- Restore habitat to pre-dredging condition.

***Approaches:***

- *Benthic community*- passive re-colonization of like substrate;
- *Eelgrass beds* - Active restoration to optimized substrate.

## Eelgrass Restoration Plan

- Harvest and relocate eelgrass to serve as potential donor material for restoration (4/01);
- Prepare benthic substrate (*i.e.*, restore/optimize natural slope and sediment texture of benthic environment for intended habitat; 10/01);
- Perform eelgrass seeding (10-11/01);
- Monitor and re-seed/add adult transplants, as needed (5-7/02);
- Conduct final monitoring and assess restoration success (5-7/03).

# Project Reporting

***Baseline Habitat Survey Report*** **to include:**

- **Summary of baseline habitat conditions;**
- **Essential Fish Habitat Evaluation;**
- **Recommendation regarding dredging window extention.**

***Habitat Restoration Work Plan*** **to include:**

- **Passive and active restoration approaches;**
- **Performance evaluation criteria;**
- **Long-term habitat monitoring plan.**

# Project Timeline

- Habitat Survey Conducted (7/15-8/1)
- Habitat Survey Results Presentation (9/12)
- Internal Draft Survey Report and Restoration WP (9/26)
- Draft Survey Report and Restoration WP (10/10)
- Internal Final Survey Report/Restoration WP (12/13)
- Final Survey Report/Restoration WP (1/04/2001)